Tamperin of Auto-Rickshaw Meters

*260. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Pioneer dated 18th December, 1993 regarding large scale tampering of auto-rickshaw meters at certain workshops in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to check the malpractice to fleece the commuters as also against those indulging in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No such report appeared in the Pioneer dated 18th December, 1993. However, such a report had appeared in Pioneer dated 18th February, 1994.

The Department of Weights and Measures, Goverament of National Capital Territory of Delhi, conducted surprise inspections at various licensed repairing workshops of auto-rickshaws and taxi fare meters but no such case of tampering of meters was noticed. However, during periodical checks from 1.1.1993 to 28.2.1994, 3975 auto-rickshaws and 333 taxies were challaned for broken meters, tampered stamps etc.

Indoor Pollution

2769. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain items of daily use in a household are responsible for indoor pollution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a general unawareness among the people in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The majority of rural households use conventional sources of fuel such as fuel wood, dung cake and agricultural residues for cooking and space heating with the help of traditional Chulhas. Various studies conducted on the pollution from traditional Chulhas indicate that a major source of indoor air pollution in the rural areas is domestic cooking and space heating using the above fuels. The combustion of these fuels in traditional Chulhas which have low thermal efficiency give rise to high emission factors.

(b) The users of traditional Chulhas are generally unaware about the harmful health effects of the biomass smoke except the direct effects such as irritation in eyes, throat etc.

(c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing two National Programmes viz., National Programme on Improved Chulha and National Project on Biogas Development. One of the major objectives of the above two National Programmes is to reduce the incidence of smoke related diseases in the rural households. The two programmes provide for central subsidies to the beneficiaries for installation of improved Chulhas and Biogas plants respectively besides other incentives. The programmes also support publicity and awareness campaigns both at the Central and State levels through TV, radio and print media in addition to local and traditional means. Under the above programmes 157.05 lakhs Chulhas and 18.68 lakh Biogas plants have so far been set up in the country.

"बिहार में विकास परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति प्रदान किया जाना

2770. श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 31 दिसम्बर, 1993 को